

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
Black & African Heritage UsCC Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021
2:00pm

Welcome/Introductions:

Present: Nakeya Fields, Wendy Cabil, Marilyn Huff, Senait Adamassu, Romalis Taylor, Keacha Stewart, Carlene Davis, Hector Ramirez, Desiree DeShay, Beatrice, Christie Summerville, Rachelle, J.M. Sales, Annie Leatherwood Parks

March 2021 Meeting Minutes Review/Approve

Mental Health Taskforce Update: Rachelle

- Black Mental Health Task Force in partnership with Painted Brain will be leading recruitment and program service efforts related to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic impact on Mental Health
- Black Mental Health Task Force will do outreach and engagement to hire five individuals from recruitment
- Task Force members will be hired to do non clinical counseling and outreach at the vaccination sites in the community
- FEMA contract have been signed for 13 positions.
- The Black Mental Health Task Force will be hiring a Program Manager
- The Black Mental Health Task Force will implement their initial program objectives related to early intervention
- The ambassadors will be trained in Mental Health Work, SB803 and peer specialist certification
- Marilyn led the resource fair with over 40-plus organizations submitting information and Black-led organizations providing resources via video to the launch of the new website
- The Black Mental Health Taskforce received donations from the African Coalition to support their website
- Mom 2020 will partner with the Black Mental Health Task Force and Therapeutic Play Foundation -- one of the organizations leading in the funding coalition of the task force -- to do a fundraiser book club in partnership with a Ghana-based non-profit called Learn, Grow, Lead.

Measure J Open Discussion: Hector Ramirez/Nakeya Fields

- Measure J recommended budget by the Chief Executive Office will propose that \$100 million in ongoing net county cost funding be set aside in the provision of financing for Measure-J programs and projects

- Measure-J initially says that the County has to set aside at least 10% of a particular budget allocation process that the County has.
- The County has three years to meet the 10% .
- The money the County is setting aside is to be used by the community and in the community to bring back resources
- CBOs have proposed a variety of different programs, education initiatives, rent subsidies, a variety of employment and training programs, as well as a variety of other community-based programs.
- The Black Mental Health Task force is recommending the Department of Mental Health to engage this subcommittee and create a specific Measure-J subcommittee led by Black people.

Presentation of Capacity Building Projects Brainstorm 2021 – Desiree, Nakeya, Wendy

Black Maternal Health and Early Childhood Education Intervention Empowerment Project -Rachelle

- The project will provide opportunities for mothers to share their birth stories, capture multigenerational birth trauma stories and collect qualitative data about how childhood development education impacted their children.
- The project will support and identify mothers by providing psychoeducation about the IEP process
- Project goal is to offer processing and healing and experiential opportunities for Black mothers and families.
- The project found participants who have experienced trauma to talk about their transition into motherhood, and to be committee ambassadors.
- Connecting other members and mothers, young mothers, older mothers with Mental Health resources and early education resources.

The members had an open discussion about a project proposal for Black Men suggested by MC. MC shared some issues and concerns that he faces as a black male. Members supported his suggestion and Annie Leatherwood Parks and Rachelle will support MC in writing a proposal. Desiree will forward the template to the members to assist them with writing the proposal.

DMH Update DSW COVID-19 Desiree & Pinki

Desiree shared that she is currently deployed working the emotional support line, and Liason for the B&A Heritage UsCC

Desiree stated some volunteers are trained psychologists and clinical social workers

Desiree shared there are billboards around Los Angeles for the emotional support line in the Crenshaw District, Asian Community and Latino Community

Pinki shared the Department of Public Health will give direction on the terms of planning and implementing a reopening process

Pinki stated the Board of Supervisors are looking into slowly reopening schools. The Board's priorities have been to support students and teachers

Pinki informed the members that the Board recently put forward a motion mandating the CEO to set aside funding to support digital divide

Pinki shared the Director of Mental Health will be attending the B&A Heritage May Meeting

Romalis expressed concerns and wants to know what is the Department's plan to address people of color as it relates to their needs in the transition back to opening up

Pinki Mehta will follow up on Romalis concern and provide an update

Public Comments:

Senait shared The African Coalition is being appointed by the OAC, MHSA Oversight and Accountability Commission.

Nakeya asked the members to attend the Measure J meeting and make a public comment to support the Black Community.

Announcements:

Nakeya invited members to attend the Black Mental Health Task Force general meeting, every first Monday of the month, 9:30am

Upcoming Meetings : 5/20/21 , 6/17/21, 7/15/21